

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097555 TOSEC 040073
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/AA:ALATHERTON, JR.:BDF
APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM
NEA:HHSAUNDERS
/S-O -RCASTRODALE
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O 152308Z APR 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

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WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY 0000

S E C R E T STATE 097555 TOSEC 040073

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR.) XF

SUBJECT: ATHERTON VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

1. SUBJECT TO FINAL CONSULTATIONS WITH ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTS, WE ARE PLANNING TO HAVE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCE AT NOON BRIEFING MONDAY, APRIL 17, THAT THE SECRETARY HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR ATHERTON TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS WITH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS. TEXT OF PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT IS IN FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THIS TELEGRAM.

2. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS JUST PRIOR TO NOON BRIEFING MONDAY, UNLESS MEANWHILE INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY, OF THIS FORTHCOMING ANNOUNCEMENT. IN DOING SO, YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- ATHERTON VISIT IS PART OF OUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND OF OUR EFFORTS TO HELP THE PARTIES OVERCOME EXISTING DIFFICULTIES IMPEDING MORE RAPID PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

-- FOLLOWING ATHERTON'S LAST ROUND OF TALKS IN CAIRO IN
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EARLY MARCH AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH REQUIRE FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH PARTIES.

-- THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THIS TRIP IS TO CLARIFY CERTAIN QUESTIONS WITH THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS, RESPECTIVELY. IT IS NOT RPT NOT ENVISAGED THAT ATHERTON WILL ENGAGE AT THIS TIME IN SHUTTLE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. RATHER, HIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO FURTHER REFINE THE ISSUES IN ORDER TO REPORT TO THE SECRETARY SO THAT WE MAY HAVE THE LATEST EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI THINKING AS WE CONSIDER HOW WE CAN BE HELPFUL IN THEIR EFFORTS TO AGREE ON FURTHER MOVES IN THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS.

-- ATHERTON EXPECTS TO DISCUSS WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT AS WELL AS TO EXPLORE FURTHER THE QUESTION OF GUIDELINES RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF WEST BANK/GAZA ISSUES. AS HOST GOVERNMENTS WILL RECALL, THE LATTER POINT IS THE SECOND ITEM

ON THE AGENDA OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TALKS TO WHICH
EGYPT AND ISRAEL AGREED IN JANUARY.

3. FOR AMMAN AND JIDDA: YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT
ATHERTON DOES NOT PRESENTLY PLAN TO VISIT ANY OTHER MIDDLE
EAST COUNTRIES ON THIS TRIP. HE WILL NEED TO RETURN TO
WASHINGTON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO REPORT TO THE
SECRETARY FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE SECRETARY'S
CURRENT TRAVELS AND, AS THINGS NOW STAND, THIS WILL SIMPLY
NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE TIME FOR THE KIND OF EXTENDED TALKS
HE WANTS TO HAVE IN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM AND FOR STOPS IN
ANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN ADDITION. WE WILL, HOWEVER, SEND
YOU TIMELY INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIEF JORDANIANS AND SAUDIS
ON ATHERTON'S TALKS IN THE AREA AND WOULD MEANWHILE
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WELCOME ANY THOUGHTS OR SUGGESTIONS THAT HUSSEIN AND
SAUDIS MAY WISH TO CONVEY TO US.

4. FOR LONDON: ATHERTON AND PARTY (DETAILS BY SEPTTEL)
PLAN TO ARRIVE IN LONDON EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19,
IN ORDER TO HAVE FINAL CONSULTATIONS FOLLOWING MORNING
WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS, WHO WILL BE IN LONDON
FOR CENTO MEETING AND WILL HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO GET
LATEST GUIDANCE FROM THE SECRETARY BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR
MOSCOW. ATHERTON PLANS TO LEAVE LONDON EARLY FRIDAY
MORNING FOR CAIRO AND WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY FOR TALKS
WITH BRITISH THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

5. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: INFO ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON
GUIDANCE IN PARA 2 ABOVE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM
HOST GOVERNMENTS.

6. BEGIN TEXT OF PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT ON TRIP.

AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES,
THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR ATHERTON TO
GO TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE
NEXT MOVES IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. HIS VISIT IS
PART OF THE DETERMINED EFFORTS IN WHICH WE AND THE TWO
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ISRAEL. HIS PRESENT PLAN IS TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON THE
LAST WEEK OF APRIL AFTER THIS ROUND OF TALKS IN BOTH
COUNTRIES. END TEXT.
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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 097555

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 097555 ACTION AMMAN BEIRUT DAMASCUS
JIDDA TEHRAN LONDON PARIS BONN INFO USDEL SECRETARY
CAIRO TEL AVIV JERUSALEM MOSCOW RABAT ALGIERS TUNIS TRIPOLI KUWAIT MA
NAMA
ABU DHABI DOHA SANA BUCHAREST BELGRADE
COPEN HAGEN USNATO WHITE HOUSE APR 15

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 097555 TOSEC 040073

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 15 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2957290
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATHERTON VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: OVIP, XF, US, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR)
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f21728ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
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